

PLYMPTON ST. MARY  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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Annual Report

—: FOR 1915, :—

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,  
S. NOY SCOTT,

D.P.H., London; L.R.C.P., Lond.; M.R.C.S., Eng.

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TO THE  
PLYMPTON ST. MARY  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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**Annual Report**

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

**FOR THE YEAR 1915.**

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Gentlemen,

Under the extraordinary circumstances which prevail at present the report for 1915, which I herewith submit will be as brief as possible, and in accordance with the suggestion of the Local Government Board it will consist chiefly of a record of the year's events and work. It will, however, I hope, afford sufficient evidence that in spite of considerable public disorganization the public health administration of your district has been maintained at its usual high level, and that valuable progress has again been made.



I take the opportunity afforded to thank you for the continuous support you have given to me in my work, and also to thank the Sanitary Inspector for his valuable and diligent co-operation.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

S. NOY SCOTT,

Medical Officer of Health.

The war has caused a very large addition to the population of the district as much of the area is within the Fortress of Plymouth, and very considerable numbers of soldiers, have been and are still quartered within it. During the early part of the year many of these were quartered in schools or other public buildings, in barns or billeted in private houses, but they are now nearly all provided with large and commodious huts. The number is a constantly varying one, and as I have been unable to obtain it with sufficient accuracy to include it in my statistical returns the figures used will refer only to the civilian population. At the 1911 census the population was 21437 and of course in that number were included all the Military population usually quartered at the different forts in the district. For the year 1915, not only these, but all the additional troops have been excluded and the estimate of the civilian population (on which my returns are based) given to me by the Local Government Board is 19,173.

## EPITOME OF WORK DONE DURING THE YEAR.

**Water Supplies :—**Much work has been done in Plympton St. Mary and Plymstock, towards increasing the supply necessitated by the large number of soldiers.

**At Lutton (Cornwood).** The pipes of the higher water supply have been cleaned out and tee pieces with short lengths of same inserted, fitted with screw caps to ensure regular scouring of the pipes.

**At Holbeton.** The pump and engine have been put into good working order. Precautions against frost have been taken for the protection of both suction and delivering pipes by entrenching one, and inserting a draining at the lowest point of the other. The windmill has been repaired and the engine house is to be erected on a permanent basis.

**At Newton Ferrers.** The pipes to the parish tank and the tank have been cleaned out and the supply of water improved. The engine has been attended to and is to be fitted with a new liner and piston. The windmill has been properly overhauled and repaired and will be erected when the tradesman can undertake the job.

**At Riverford.** The supply tank has been cleaned out and the first few lengths of pipe cleaned.

Four samples of water were taken for analysis, and one was condemned unfit for use.

Water Certificates were issued for 13 new houses.

## DRAINAGE.

**At Plymstock.** A scheme for the drainage of Blackberry Lane Cottages has been drawn up and approved, and is now in hand. It is being delayed by legal formalities.

**At Egguckland.** A scheme for drainage of the Bungalows, was prepared but the work is postponed for the time, pending negotiations with the owners.

**At Oreston.** A new length of 135 feet of sewer, has been laid, and two new man holes constructed, to enable two new houses (and some others which are intended to be built) to be drained.

**At Ermington.** Attention has been given as required to the overflow from the sewage tanks.

### **HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.**

**85** houses have been inspected and reported upon.

**12** Closing orders were issued. In six, improvements have been made but they are not yet fully completed.

For the other six, promises of improvements have been obtained.

**70** old houses have had improvements made without any legal notices being issued, of these **53** have had light and ventilation improved by new or larger windows.—

*See also Schedule at end.*

**Factory and Workshops' Act, 1910.**—The total number registered is **126**—all have been visited once and some twice during the year. No prosecutions have been necessary, but in one case such was contemplated but was prevented by the under Secretary of State consenting to existing conditions being temporarily continued.

The general standard of cleanliness was good, and with one exception the tenants promised abatement of such conditions as I found fault with.



## BIRTHS AND BIRTH RATES.

**387** Births were registered or transferred to this district during the year. Of these **21** were illegitimate—Birth rate—**17.2** per **1000**.

This is the lowest rate I have ever recorded, and is **3.4** below that for Rural England and Wales.

## MARRIAGES.

**218** were registered. The marriage rate was **22.2** which is the highest I have recorded.

## DEATHS AND DEATH RATE.

**328** residents belonging to the district died during the year, of these **25** died outside the district, either in Hospitals or elsewhere. The death rate is therefore **17.10** per **1000**, and this is the highest it has been for many years and is **3.2** above that of Rural England and Wales. For details of the causes of death please refer to Tables iii and iv.

**Infant Mortality.** Calculated on number of deaths under one year, as a rate of births registered—**105.94** per 1,000. This is the highest recorded since 1911, and is **7.94** above that of Rural England and Wales, but **4.06**, below that for the whole of the country.

The lower birth rate and the higher death rate are ominous figures, but I hope they will prove to be exceptional, and to some extent, fallacious, as they are based on provisional estimates of population, from which it is impossible to exclude error. The actual number of births and deaths are figures which can be proved, and they include all these which have occurred in the families of married soldiers who habitually reside in the district,

whereas, the estimated population on which the death rate is based excludes the fairly large number of soldiers who have in previous years been included in the gross estimate of population.

## **INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

**178** cases were notified as compared with **207** in the previous year.

No case of **Small Pox** was notified.

**Diphtheria.**—**73** cases with **12** deaths—

The cases were distributed as follows :—

Plympton S. Mary—16 ; Plympton S. Maurice, 7 ; Shaugh Prior, 8 ; St. Budeaux 5 ; Tamerton Foliot 5 ; Egg Buckland 3 ; Bickleigh, 1 ; Plymstock, 15 ; Yealmpton 9 ; Holbeton 2 ; Ermington 1 ; Newton Ferrers 1.—Total for 1914—62.

**Scarlet Fever.**—**54** cases with **2** deaths.

Distribution of cases :—

St. Budeaux, 17 ; Bickleigh 10 ; Tamerton Foliot 6 ; Shaugh Prior 4 ; Egg Buckland 2 ; Plympton St. Mary 1 ; Compton Gifford 1.—Total for 1914—97.

**Erysipelas.**—**Five** cases.

**Enteric Fever.**—**Eleven** cases were notified with **three** deaths, these are exactly the same number as in 1914.

Distribution of the cases :—

Plymstock, 5, all in Pomphlett ; Plympton St. Mary 4 ; Weston Peverell 1 ; Holbeton 1 ;

Two of the deaths were from Pomphlett and one from Plympton St. Mary. Two of these took place in the Borough Hospital of Plymouth.

**Puerperal Fever.**—Only one case was notified, the patient recovered.

**Ophthalmia Neonatorum.**—One case, in an illegitimate child, the patient made a complete recovery.

**Measles.**—Prevailed extensively and necessitated several schools being closed.

### **TUBERCULOSIS.**

Phthisis.—**28** cases were reported ; and **26** deaths were due to this disease. Last year 26 cases were reported and 18 deaths.

Of the **26** deaths, some were not notified during life, or were notified elsewhere.

**Tuberculous—Meningitis.**—three deaths were due to this.

**Other Tuberculous Diseases.**—Five cases were reported with three deaths.

Including cases notified in previous year there are now 45 cases of Tuberculosis under observation and treatment of which,—

**5** are seriously ill ;

**29** are either unable to work or only to do very little ;

**11** are engaged in light occupations.

Out of these **45** there are **34** cases of Phthisis and **11** of other tuberculous diseases chiefly glands or bones.

7 were notified during the year

5        „        „        „ 1914.

3        „        „        „ 1913.

1 was        „        „ 1911.

5 were notified elsewhere.

11 were not notified except by death.

Of the deaths one had received continuous Tuberculin treatment at home since 1911.

One died in the County Asylum at Axminster ; three had received Sanatorium treatment ; four died out of the district.

In addition to the foregoing, the following cases were notified of soldiers : three cases of Tuberculosis ; four cases of Scarlet Fever ; one of Diphtheria ; and two cases of Cerebro Spinal Fever.

#### **The Rainfall in 1915 :**

From particulars kindly supplied to me by H. Hawker, Esq., H. Case, Esq., Mrs. Clay and the Rev. W. Powell, I extract the following :—*See next page*—

As compared with previous years., 1915, had a rainfall much above the average—chiefly due to excessive falls on a few days.



# THE RAINFALL IN 1915.

From particulars kindly supplied to me by G. H. Hawker, Esq., H. Case, Esq., Mrs. Clay, and the Rev. W. Powell, I extract the following :—

At	Total in inches.	No. of Wet days	Wettest Month of the Year.	Driest Month of the Year.	Day of Greatest Fall.
Strode ..	51.88	169	Dec. 11.63 inches	Sept. 1.36 inches	Oct. 24 1.51 inches
Bovisand ..	41.5	164	Dec. 9.74	March 0.99	Oct. 24 1.36
Wembury ..	48.95	177	Dec. 9.96	Sept. 0.91	Oct. 24 1.65
Holberton	50.28	183	Dec. 11.18	April 1.46	Oct. 24 1.55



**Scavenging.** A great deal of extra work has been occasioned by the large influx of troops, especially in Plymstock, Crown Hill and Plympton, and fresh contracts have had to issued.

Schools were closed as follows :—

Egg Buckland—for Measles, March 1st to March 29th.

Ermington—for Measles, April 22nd, for four weeks.

Shaugh Prior—for Measles, June 1st, for three weeks.

Newton Ferrers—for Measles, July 2nd, for three weeks.

Holbeton—for Measles, July 8th, for three weeks.

**Slaughter Houses.**—There are **16** in the district, and **28** inspections have been made during the year. In one case two notices have had to be given to cleanse and remove offal.

The carcasses of two bullocks were seized and destroyed during the year, and the lungs of another.

**Pigs.**—Swine fever appeared in Tamerton and Plymstock, Efficient action was taken by the Veterinary Surgeon and a considerable number of pigs were destroyed.

#### **DAIRIES, COWSHEDS and MILKSHOPS ORDERS :—**

**154** inspections were made and defects found in **11**.

**SCHEDULE OF WORK BY THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.**

Cases of over-crowding dealt with .. ..	2
New W. Closets erected and provided with flushers	31
New W. Closets erected to be hand flushed ..	6
Water Closets repaired or provided with new roofs or flushers .. .. .	21
Earth Closets converted into water closets ..	4
Earth Closets erected .. .. .	1
New drains laid and connected to sewers ..	55
„ „ „ „ „ cess pit ..	1
Drains repaired or cleansed and flushers repaired	16
Drains tested with smoke .. ..	80
General Nuisances abated .. .. .	24
Houses or Rooms fumigated, after infectious diseases including Consumption or Cancer ..	205
Schools Fumigated .. .. .	4
Samples of Water taken for Anyalsis ..	4
Samples of Water found unfit for use .. ..	1
Official Letters written .. .. .	345
Houses inspected for Water Certificates ..	13
Houses inspected under House and Town Planning Act. .. .. .	85

*See also Notes in previous pages.*

TABLE 1.—Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1915 and previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.*		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Un- corrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	Of Non- Residents registered in the District.	Of Resi- dents not registered in the District.	Under 1 year of Age.		At all ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number	Rate per 1000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1910	21314	436	—	20.45	268	12.57	9	6	36	82.56	265	12.43
1911	21478	421	—	19.60	296	13.78	4	21	47	111.63	313	14.57
1912	21800	400	409	18.76	230	10.55	17	23	32	78.23	236	10.82
1913	22210	421	442	19.90	265	11.93	8	24	41	92.76	281	12.65
1914	22500	381	404	17.95	260	11.55	10	23	32	79.2	273	12.13
1915	19173	379	387	17.2	311	16.22	8	25	40	105.94	328	17.10

Note.—The deaths included in Column 6 of this table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths included in Column 12 are the number in Column 6, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 8 and the addition of the number in Column 9.

\* "Transferable Deaths" are deaths of persons who, having a fixed or usual residence in England or Wales, die in a district other than that in which they resided.

**At Census of 1911.**—Area of District in Acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 73,252.

Total Population at all ages, 21,437. Number of inhabited houses, 4,658. Average number of persons per house, 4.5.

See Notes in text.

Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified during the Year 1915.

Notifiable Diseases.	Cases notified in the whole District.										Total cases notified in each Locality.		No. of cases removed to Hospital.
	At all ages.	At Ages—Years.											
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 o 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards	Plympton or North.	Yealmt'n or South.			
Small Pox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Cholera .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Diphtheria (including .. Membranous Croup)	73	..	14	40	10	9	..	..	45	28	3	3	
Erysipelas .. ..	5	..	..	1	1	..	3	..	2	3	..	..	
Scarlet Fever .. ..	54	..	14	37	1	2	..	..	41	13	..	..	
Typhus Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Enteric Fever .. ..	11	..	1	6	1	3	..	..	5	6	4	..	
Relapsing Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Continued Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Puerperal Fever .. ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	
Poliomyelitis .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Cerbro Spinal Meningitis .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .. ..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .. ..	28	..	..	2	7	13	6	..	25	3	5	..	
Other Tuberculosis .. ..	5	..	..	3	..	1	1	..	2	3	..	..	
Totals .. ..	178	1	29	89	20	29	10	..	120	58	12	..	

Isolation Hospitals used—The Plympton St. Mary Small Pox Hospital, Lee Mill, Plympton. The Infectious Diseases Hospital of the Plymouth Town Council. Mt. Edgcombe Training Ship Hospital. Didworthy Sanatorium. Hawkmoor Sanatorium.



TABLE III.  
Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the Year, 1915.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Nett deaths at the subjoined ages of " Residents " whether occurring within or without the District.										Total Deaths whether " Residents " or " Non-Residents " in Institutions in the District.
		All Ages.	Under 1 year	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 yrs.	15 and under 25 yrs.	25 and under 45 yrs.	45 and under 65 yrs.	up- wards.		
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
All causes	Certified ..	328	40	11	14	23	14	30	59	137	13	
	Uncertified ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Enteric Fever ..	..	3	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	
Small Pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Measles ..	..	6	2	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Scarlet Fever ..	..	2	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	
Whooping Cough ..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Diphtheria and Croup ..	..	12	..	..	4	8	..	..	..	..	..	
Influenza ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	
Erysipelas ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	..	26	..	..	..	..	5	13	8	..	..	
Tuberculous Meningitis	..	3	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	
Other Tuberculous Diseases	..	3	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	
Cancer, malignant disease	..	24	..	..	..	..	..	1	13	10	..	
Rheumatic Fever ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	
Meningitis ..	..	2	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	
Organic Heart Disease	..	49	..	..	..	1	..	4	11	33	2	















